

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A friction clutch, comprising:

2 a housing arrangement having an axis of rotation; and

3 an intermediate plate arrangement coupled to said housing arrangement

4 for joint rotation therewith about the axis of rotation, and arrangeable for transmitting a

5 pressure force between two frictional output members, said intermediate plate

6 arrangement including two intermediate plate elements with an elastic prestressing

7 arrangement arranged therebetween, said intermediate plate elements being axially

8 displaceable with respect to one another counter to the action of said elastic

9 prestressing arrangement.

1 2. The friction clutch of claim 1, wherein at least one of said

2 intermediate plate elements comprises, on a side facing the other of said intermediate

3 plate elements, a recess for at least a partial reception of said prestressing

4 arrangement.

1 3. The friction clutch of claim 2, wherein said recess comprises an

2 annular depression.

1 4. The friction clutch of claim 1, wherein said intermediate plate

2 elements are held apart in a state of maximum axial extent, counter to a prestressing

3 action of said prestressing arrangement, by restraining members.

1 5. The friction clutch of claim 4, wherein said restraining members
2 comprise one of clinched bolts and screw bolts.

1 6. The friction clutch of claim 1, wherein said prestressing
2 arrangement comprises at least one spring element.

1 7. The friction clutch of claim 6, wherein said at least one spring
2 element comprises one of a cup spring, a corrugated spring, an elastomeric element or
3 a helical coil spring.

1 8. The friction clutch of claim 1, wherein at least one of said
2 intermediate plate elements includes one of a frictional surface or a frictional lining
3 element providing a frictional surface.

1 9. An intermediate plate arrangement for a friction clutch, the
2 intermediate plate arrangement comprising two intermediate plate elements and an
3 elastic prestressing arrangement arranged therebetween, said two intermediate plates
4 being displaceable with respect to one another counter to a force exerted by said elastic
5 prestressing arrangement.